

# THE

MONTHLY



# GULL

FEB 9 - 1937

VOLUME 19

SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY, 1937

RECEIVED  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
NUMBER 2

## Report of the President for the Year 1936

January, 1937, marks the close of the twentieth year of the existence of our Association. It gives me pleasure on this occasion to say that our membership has increased during the year and that our sphere of influence has broadened considerably. Our membership is 126, a gain of nine over last year. In 1936 we lost through death one honorary member, Dr. Wm. F. Bade; one life member, George M. Wright, and one active member, H. van Straaten. Three members resigned and one active and three junior members were dropped for non-payment of dues. We gained one life and eighteen active members. As the membership now stands there are eight honorary, eleven life, eight junior and ninety-nine active members. We have seven subscribers to *THE GULL*.

The Association held a meeting in every month except July. Two were held in the Auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Building, one in April on the occasion of the western visit of John H. Baker, Executive Director of the National Association of Audubon Societies, and the other in October during Roger Tory Peter's first western trip. Mr. Baker used as his subject "Wild-life Conservation in America," illustrating it with motion pictures of Audubon sanctuaries. Mr. Peterson's subject was "The Sport of Bird Study," illustrated with slides made from his own photographs and motion pictures of the White Ibis colony at Lake Washington, Florida. The combined attendance at these two lectures was about 900 persons. Through such lectures the Association contacted a wide public. The average attendance at the regular meetings was twenty-six.

The Lake Merced sanctuary matter has been given further attention. Although interviews have been had with officials, nothing has so far developed. It is to be hoped that during 1937 something will be accomplished both at Lake Merced and at the Alameda marshes, where some interest has been aroused.

The Association has become an affiliate of the Alameda County Wildlife Federation. Your president was elected vice-chairman of the Federation. The name and work of the Association have in this way come before sportsmen's associations as well as before the sports editors of the various newspapers of the bay region and for the first time the Audubon Association has been able to have a representative sit at the same council table with representatives of these diverse interests, listen to their side of the story and to be able to tell them our attitude. The result is a better understanding between the different groups, and it should lead to united action for conservation of wildlife.

We have also been represented at the meetings of the California Conservation Council held in San Francisco this fall to discuss the activities to be featured during Conservation Week, March 7 to 14, 1937.

A protest was made against the killing of Barn Owls at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. Mr. Lastreto personally went out and talked to the director of the museum. It has been promised that in the future the Owls will not be destroyed.

Early in 1936 the Sierra Club asked if we would lead one of their regular Sunday walks so that their members would have an opportunity to get acquainted with some of the birds in Marin County. The trip was held on November 1st from Ross Valley to Lake Lagunitas. The group divided into four sections with at least two Audubon leaders in each group. All met at Lake Lagunitas for luncheon. Here notes were compared and the assembled members were addressed by your president on the birds seen that day, and on the subject of added joy and interest that a knowledge of birds gives to all outdoor activity. The outing was so popular that we were asked to lead another trip soon. Your president felt that it was not practical to ask members of our Association to act as leaders too frequently and suggested that if the Sierra Club members continued to be interested in such outings we might make such leadership an annual event.

A request for a bird Sunday also came from the Contra Costa Hills Club. On November 15th your president led a trip through Wildcat Canyon, Contra Costa County. It was well attended and the talk at the lunch hour gave rise to many questions showing that there is also a genuine interest among members of this club.

During 1936 several very important questions of national scope came to our attention and it was decided at the directors' meeting to send letters of protest against bill H. R. 9275 "to permit mining within the Glacier Bay National Monument," and letters opposing the "Grand-Lake Big Thompson Intermountain Diversion Project." Also letters were sent supporting bills -H. R. 10395, 10396, 10397, 10401 and S. 3812, 3813 and 3814 and S. 3914 designed to give the Pacific States control of the sardine take from the waters off their respective coasts. Mrs. Stephens sent these letters to the proper senators and representatives. Mrs. Stephens also wrote during the year seventeen letters to sports writers and others extending them an invitation to visit our meetings. I cannot emphasize too strongly that it is largely through the untiring efforts of our ever willing and faithful Laura Stephens that our Association has been able to reach out into so many channels.

Need I say anything as to our ever-mounting debt to her as year after year she makes possible the delivery of THE GULL to our respective addresses? I only hope that everyone appreciates to the full the hours of painstaking care necessary to edit this paper. We would miss it terribly if it did not appear; therefore let us all decide right now to help Mrs. Stephens by seeing that she gets interesting and worthwhile material to fill its four pages. We thank you, Mrs. Stephens.

While speaking of thanks let me take this occasion to express appreciation to Mrs. Bracelin, who has furnished us so many fine programs; to those members who have helped as field-trip leaders on our regular outings, on the Sierra Club trip and the Christmas census; to those who have secured and transported lanterns, who have turned in field observations, and all the members for having given me such good support during the year. I also want to thank my fellow officers and members of the board for their faithfulness in performing their various duties. Your officers cannot make a successful association—it takes the whole membership to succeed.

I feel that a few words about Junior Audubon are in order. Last year we paid the dues for a small club in the Whittier School, Berkeley, under the leadership of Miss Berg, one of our members. In September I became Junior Club Representative for Northern California excepting Fresno, Tulare, Mono and Inyo Counties. This work was undertaken after a visit to the headquarters of the National Association in New York, and as a member of the Audubon Association of the Pacific. I have always felt that our Association should sponsor the forming of Junior Clubs and thus definitely help to interest children in wildlife and its conservation. Since September forty-one clubs, enrolling 1148 children, have been formed. Four of our members have formed clubs, Mrs. Bello, Misses Berg and Papina, and Mr. B. C. Cain. I am delighted to say that Miss Papina's club has an enrollment of sixty, the largest in Northern California.

Respectfully submitted,

Junea W. Kelly.

### Lake Merritt, Oakland, California

The January field trip to the waterfowl refuge at Lake Merritt, for the purpose of obtaining a census, was taken on the 17th. At the start the day was clear and sunny with moderate temperature. In the afternoon, however, the sky became overcast, the sun breaking through only occasionally.

The most amusing incident of the day, to me, was at 3:30 when the birds were fed. The Wood Duck came to the very front ranks, getting there just as the feed was being cast by the keeper, and pecked every bird in his path. He joined in with the whole flock of birds in the pool. Heretofore I have always seen him secretive, hiding under the shrubbery, but when he came to take his place at the table, he headed them all.

Thirty-six species were observed, as follows:

Eared Grebes 90+	Lesser Scaup 170	California Jays 4
Pied-billed Grebes 5	Scaup females 85	Plain Titmouse 1
Blk. cr. Night Herons 31	American Golden-eyes 15	Bush-tits
Mallards 96	Buffleheads 14	Western Robins 4
European Widgeon 1	Ruddy Ducks 396	Ruby-cr. Kinglets 2
Baldpates 473	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Audubon Warbler 1
Pintail Ducks 935	Coots 644	English Sparrows 300+
Green-winged Teal 6	Glaucous-winged Gulls 46	Brewer Blackbirds 69+
Wood Duck 1 male	California Gulls 31	Green-backed Goldfinch 6
Redhead Duck 1	Ring-billed Gulls 8	Brown Towhee 1
Canvas-back Ducks 740	Anna Hummingbirds 2	Nuttall Sparrows 73+
Greater Scaup 70	Red-shafted Flickers 2	Golden-cr. Sparrow 1
		Song Sparrows 3

Members attending: Mr. and Mrs. Otis H. Smith; Mesdames Bello, Court-right, Kelly; Misses Cockefair, Cohen, Danz, McHoul, MacIver, Rinehart, Stanton, Taylor; Messrs. Power, Thomas; Master Fritz Lippman. Guests: Miss Giddings; Messrs. Bello, Linford, Walsh.

Christine Danz, Historian.



### Scott Valley, Siskiyou County, California

French Creek District, Scott Valley, Siskiyou County, California (elevation 2500 feet). December 22, 1936, 9 a. m. to 3 p. m.; scattered clouds; unusually warm and dry for this time of year. Light southerly winds; temperature 58° at start, 60° at return. Red-tailed Hawk 2; Valley Quail 12; Red-shafted Flicker 3; Lewis Woodpecker 20; Modoc Woodpecker 1; Long-tailed Jay 6; Plain Titmouse 4; Slender-billed Nuthatch 6; Western Robin 12; Spotted Towhee 1; Junco 14; Chipping Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 6. Thirteen species, ninety-nine individuals.

J. Duncan Graham, High School Science teacher at the Benicia High School, Benicia, California.



### Nature's Masterly Camouflage

Black and white is a color scheme that seems strikingly conspicuous on the boulevards, but when worn by a Canada Goose, or Honker, in nature's hinterlands, it becomes a camouflage so perfect as to render the wearer well-nigh invisible.

Such was the case when a great bird of this species alighted recently on the shores of Mirror Lake, in Yosemite National Park, California. The sandy beach, glistening in the bright sunlight, and the surface of the water darkling like polished jet, made a background into which the gray body of the goose, her black legs and black and white head melted indistinguishably. According to the staff of Yosemite Museum this is the first time on record that a Canada Goose has been seen in the Yosemite Valley.

## Audubon Notes

**February Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 11th, at 8 o'clock, room 19, Ferry Building.

Mrs. Kelly will speak on the "Feeding Behavior of Shore Birds."

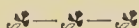


**February Field Trip** will be taken on Sunday, the 14th, to Burlingame. Meet at stage depot, Fifth near Mission Street, San Francisco, to take bus at 8:55 a. m. to Easton Drive, where party will meet at 10 o'clock.

East Bay members should reach Ferry Building not later than 8:30, taking car up Market to Fifth Street. Bring luncheon. Leader, Mrs. Junea W. Kelly.



**1937 Dues:** The annual dues for the year are now payable. Your prompt attention to this matter makes it possible for THE GULL to come to you regularly every month.



**January Meeting:** The 20th annual and the 233rd regular meeting was held on January 14th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with twenty-four members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presiding.

Officers and Directors for 1936 were re-elected to serve for the ensuing year.

The following new members were elected: Mrs. A. C. Drayeur and Mrs.

Frank Brierly, of San Francisco, and Miss Ivander MacIver of Berkeley.

The following observations were reported:

Mr. James Moffitt observed on Stow Lake, Golden Gate Park, a Hooded Merganser at mid-day of November 16th. "It was seen to fly in and alight on the northern part of the lake. Mallards immediately pursued it and drove it alongshore, close to me. It was a female, and, from the behavior of the mallards, I think a newly arrived bird to the lake."

Commander Parmenter: 300± Canada Geese on Crystal Springs Lake, December 12th; Searsville Lake, 8 Whistling Swans; Dumbarton Bridge, 400± Avocets; Mountain View marshes, 10 Long-billed and 2 Hudsonian Curlews, 15 Long-billed Dowitchers, December 18th; 2 Greater Yellow-legs, 29th; Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, 8 female Shovellers, December 31st.

C. R. Thomas: At the new Aquatic Park, Berkeley, female Old Squaw, three American Egrets, many ducks and shore birds, January 24th.



### Directors' Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Directors preceding the regular meeting at 6:30 p. m., in room 714, 245 Market Street.

## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....1311 Grand Ave., Alameda, Calif.  
Corresponding Secretary.....C. B. Lastreto.....260 California St., San Francisco  
Treasurer.....Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Subscription to monthly Bulletin, \$1.00 per year. Single copies, 15c.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.